

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00751 221240Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 IGA-02 EUR-12 ORM-02

OES-06 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15 SCS-03

SCA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /139 W

-----230226Z 065822 /75-70

R 220832Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9138

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0751

PASS AID FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, CM

SUBJECT: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON ERUPTION ON GRANDE COMORE

REF: TANA 0662

1. ON BASIS OF PERSONAL OBSERVATION CONDUCTED APRIL 17, I
CAN ADD FOLLOWING TO INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY REFTEL:

2. VENT IS LOCATED APPROX 2 MILES NORTHEAST OF VILLAGE
OF M'DJOEZI. LAVA FLOW APPROX SOUTH-SOUTHWEST. TWO LAVA FLOWS
CUTTING ROAD ARE APPROX 300 YARDS WIDE EACH, AND THERE IS A
400 YARD GAP BETWEEN THEM. TOTAL AREA OF ROAD AFFECTED IS
THEREFORE ONLY ABOUT 1,000 YARDS. IT TOOK US ONLY 15 MINUTES
TO TRAVERSE BOTH FLOWS AND OPEN AREA OF ROAD BETWEEN THEM,
WALKING FAST BUT DOING SOME ACTIVE SCRAMBLING OVER FLOWS WHICH
COMPOSED OF BOTH SMALL AND LARGE ROCKS, MANY OF THEM LOOSE AND
IN SOME AREAS STILL HOT.

3. WE WERE UNABLE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO VENT'S EDGE, AS HEAVY
FUMES STILL ISSUING FROM CRACKS ALL AROUND IT. AREA ALL AROUND
VENT IS COVERED SOMETIMES TO DEPTH OF 20 FEET WITH BLACK
VOLCANIC GRANULES ABOUT THE CONSISTENCY OF VERY FINE
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GRAVEL. MOST TREES IN AREA ARE BURIED RIGHT UP TO THEIR
TOPMOST BRANCHES.

4. COMITE NATIONAL POPULAIRE, WHICH NOW RUNNING GOVERNMENT
OF COMORO ISLANDS, INFORMED ME IT WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF AN
AMERICAN SCIENTIST, PARTICULARLY IF HE COULD GIVE THEM
SOME INDICATION WHETHER THAT PARTICULAR AREA IS LIKELY

TO PRODUCE ANOTHER ERUPTION. THIS MIGHT AFFECT DECISION
ON WHERE TO LOCATE NEW VILLAGE PLANNED TO REPLACE DESTROYED
VILLAGE OF SINGANI.

5. UNIVERSITY OF ANTANANARIVO SCIENTIST HAS
INFORMED US THAT SMALL TREMORS IN COMOROS AREA ARE
RECORDED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR ON THREE SEISMOGRAPHS
OPERATING IN MADAGASCAR. DATA IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
RECENT ERUPTION SPARSE AS TWO OF SEISMOGRAPHS WERE NOT
FUNCTIONING. DATA FROM THESE OBSERVATIONS ARE ROUTINELY
FORWARDED TO USGS AT BOULDER, COLORADO. BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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